

WHY CONDUCT THE SURVEY?

1. **Identify priority areas** at the state and local levels for increased programming, changes in school policy and collaboration with community agencies.
2. **Monitor the impact** of large-scale state or national initiatives to improve adolescent health.
3. **Establish benchmarks** for reducing adolescent risks and increasing pro-social behaviors.
4. **Recognize program successes** influencing adolescent behaviors.
5. Provide teachers with a **basis for allocating instructional time** in the health and physical education curriculum.
6. Provide teens with **fact-based peer norms** rather than inflated perceptions of what their peers are doing.

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2007 NEW JERSEY STUDENT HEALTH SURVEY

High School Survey
Biannual Since 1993

Middle School Survey
2005 Only

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WHAT IS THE NEW JERSEY STUDENT HEALTH SURVEY?

The New Jersey Student Health Survey collects information on student health status and health-related behaviors. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has conducted the survey in grades 9-12 every other year since 1993. The 2007 survey includes questions about:

- ♦ Preventing accidental injury
- ♦ Violence and weapons
- ♦ Use of alcohol and drugs
- ♦ Use of tobacco
- ♦ Weight and height
- ♦ Diet and exercise
- ♦ Sexual activity related to infections and pregnancy
- ♦ Asthma and dental care

The survey does not ask questions about the student's family members, family functioning, income, or political affiliation.

HOW ARE FINDINGS REPORTED?

The NJDOE provides summary and detailed reports to school districts and youth-serving agencies. The reports are available for download from the NJDOE Web site at www.state.nj.us/njded/data/. The 2005 reports include findings from a 2005 shorter version of the survey administered to students in grades 7-8 in New Jersey public schools.

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS STUDENT SURVEY?

- ♦ Most of the New Jersey Student Health Survey questions are also asked in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Therefore, New Jersey findings can be compared to national and other state results for the same time period.
- ♦ Selected questions about student attitudes and beliefs about drug and alcohol use are continued from the former *Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use Among New Jersey High School Students*.
- ♦ The NJDOE selects the questions for the survey based upon concurrence of an inter-agency student survey workgroup so that the survey meets the data needs of multiple state agencies.
- ♦ The school sample assures that no school that is asked to participate will also be approached for the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey or the New Jersey Youth Tobacco Survey.

HOW DOES THE SURVEY WORK?

The NJDOE selects a scientifically random sample of New Jersey public schools. For 2007, a total of 35 schools will be in the sample. Any school that refuses to participate cannot be replaced, and, therefore, the overall representation of students in the survey is reduced.

Within each participating school, NJDOE selects a random sample of classes for a total of 100 students. Student participation is voluntary and anonymous.

Students may complete the survey only with prior signed parental permission. The school's staff do not handle completed survey forms. No responses can be traced to an individual school, class or student.

HOW CAN I HELP?

USE THE DATA IN YOUR WORK.

SHARE SURVEY FINDINGS WITH OTHERS SO THEY ALSO LEARN TO USE THE INFORMATION.

LET YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD KNOW THAT YOU SUPPORT DATA-DRIVEN PLANNING AND REPORTING.

HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND THE SURVEY SO THAT THEY DO NOT FEEL THREATENED.

LET NJDOE KNOW HOW WE CAN IMPROVE.

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